Pattie Gonia, Environmentalist Drag Queen, Has an Earth Day Message for You

Pattie has some words of action for you.

By Alex Cooper

Apr 22, 2023

Screengrabs via @pattiegonia/Instagram

Happy Earth Day! Don't F*ck It Up.

The iconic environmentalist and drag queen Pattie Gonia urged her followers on Earth Day on Saturday to take action to combat the climate crisis.

“Happy Earth Day,” Pattie says in a clip posted to social media. “Your friend shared this video because they want us all to stop shaming each other over a plastic straw or a long shower and instead start shaming the corporations and elected officials that are actually causing the climate crisis.”

She adds, “Vote the a**holes out of office, get involved in a local climate org, and most of all if you feel dead inside get the f*ck outside, so you can remember why this planet is worth fighting for.”

For several years, Pattie has been taking to the internet to encourage awareness of environmental issues. She was even chosen to be one of the Out 100 of *Out* magazine, *The Advocate*’s sibling publication, in 2020.

She’s taken to the mountains in heels to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for outdoor and LGBTQ+ rights nonprofit groups. For Halloween last, Pattie went as "the scariest thing on Earth...climate change."

Pattie, whose real name is Wyn Wiley, has more than 520,000 followers on Instagram. Wiley is a 30-year-old gay Nebraskan, outdoors enthusiast, and creative director who’s worked with Adidas, Red Bull, and Disney, was on a weeklong backtracking trip a few years ago in Colorado when he strapped on some high heels and strutted for the camera in his first outing as Pattie Gonia. That first video garnered more than 100 million views across platforms.

“I love the outdoors and I love drag so I figured why not intersect my passions and do both,” the backpacking drag queen told The Advocate’s other sibling publication, *Out Traveler*. “There are so many other outdoor drag queens and I love that we’re all here doing what we can to bring queerness to spaces we love, like the outdoors, ecology, and backpacking.”

Wiley said he became an environmentalist “very slowly.”

“Through failing every single day and through every moment where I’ve realized being an environmentalist doesn’t mean perfection and the goal isn’t to change anyone else’s mind,” Wiley explained, “but instead it’s about holding myself accountable to change what I can in my life, and remain curious and a lifelong learner about our planet and how to ally it.”

Wiley told the magazine that he considers himself an “intersectional environmentalist” centering “ways in which injustices happening to marginalized communities, and the Earth are interconnected. It brings injustices done to the most vulnerable communities, and the Earth, to the forefront and does not minimize or silence social inequality.”

He also co-founded The Oath, an organization designed to educate and unite outdoor communities with a shared commitment to act for the planet, inclusion, and adventure.

Check out more of Pattie Gonia’s looks and activism below. You can follow Pattie on Instagram @pattiegonia.

pattiegonia
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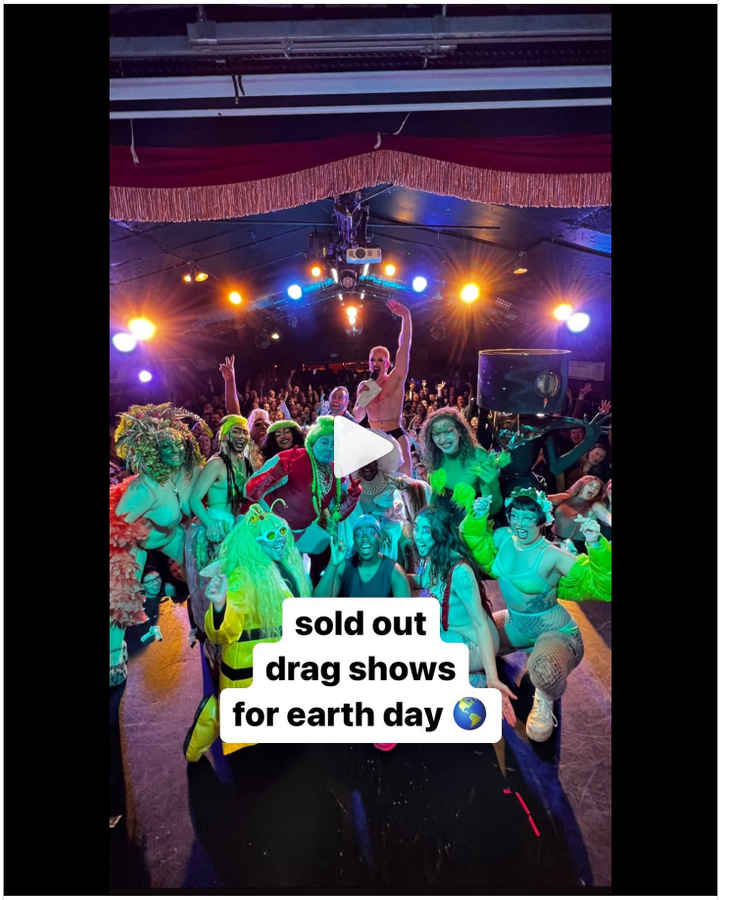

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13,165 likes

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the climate crisis is a drag. 🌎 who had your favorite look?

#climatechange #earthday #environmentalism #drag #dragqueen #dragking #lgbtq #lgbtq🌈 #pride #earthweek #earthmonth

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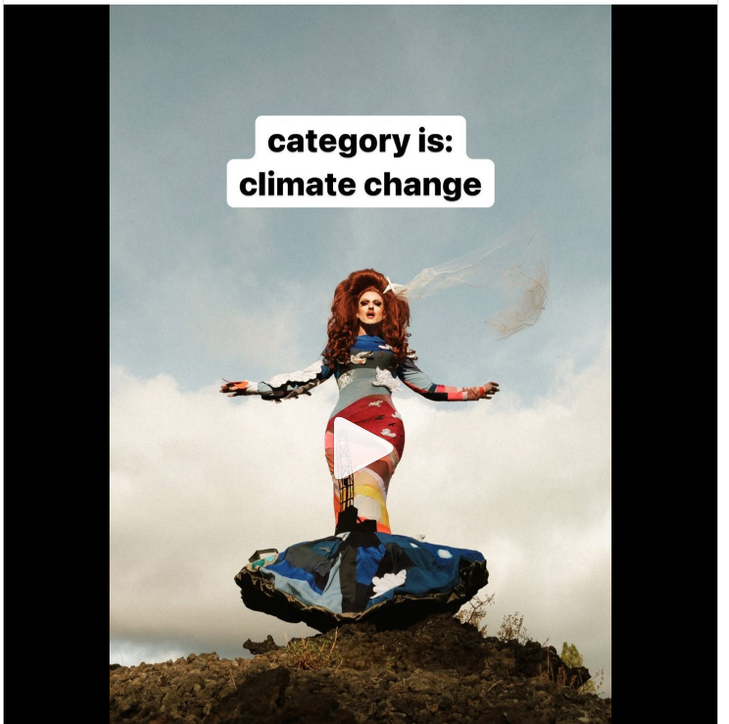

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337,586 likes

pattiegonia

boo, b!t€h! 🎃 happy halloween. sustainable dress made of 100% fabric scraps paired with my reworn wig & accessories to give you the scariest thing on planet earth....climate change.

🧪 sustainable dress made by the one and only @zerowastedaniel
📸 photo, videos styling and accessories by @thegraciegirl @sustainablyliz & @daynaturnblom
👸 wig by @hatzbycarlos

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Yosemite National Park

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28,175 likes

pattiegonia

hi from yosemite. threw pride for the hundreds of employees that work in the park. spent time outside with best friends. hiked, volunteered, ate every trader joe's snack imaginable, & put a drag wig on a very adorable baby.

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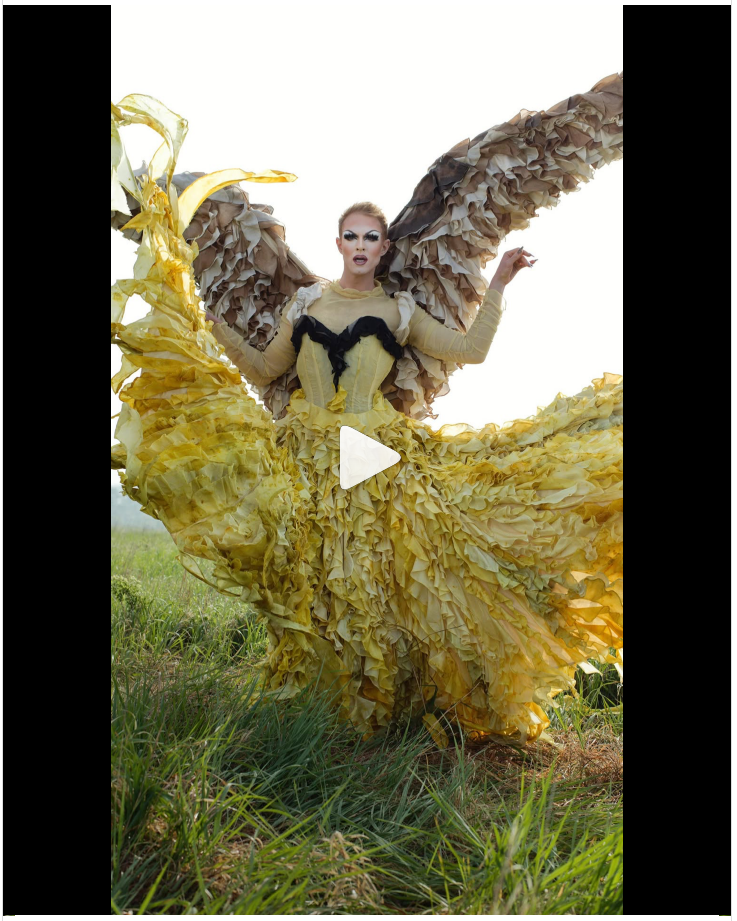

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66,237 likes

pattiegonia

Birds are drag queens and they're telling us that our planet is changing. This #PrideMonth, I partnered with @audubonsociety and a team of queer creatives to bring you #BirdsTellUs: The Song of the Meadowlark, a message of hope for the future of our planet. For years, Audubon has reminded the world that by observing how climate change impacts birds, we can more clearly see how it has—and will—impact us. Birds tell us every day that the world is changing both through their songs and the songs they no longer sing due to habitat loss and global temperature rise. Will you choose to listen? Learn more at audubon.org/pattiegonia

Senior Education Manager: Jason St. Sauver (@springcreekprairieaudubon)
DP: Mitchell Overton (@mitchelloverton)
Dress designers: Joelle Tangen (@lajoliejoelle) and Lesley Darling (@lesley.darling.fiber)
Music: Tyson Motsenbocker (@japhyrider)
Voiceover adapted from: Emily Dickinson's "Hope" is the thing with feathers
Photography and Videography: Mike Fernandez (@mikefromperu) and Christine Lin (@chrriscross)
Producers: Nick Mason (@nickmas0n) and Jenny Dugan (@jennycdugan)

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Josh Groban · You Raise Me Up

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14,983 likes

pattiegonia

no words. just thank you. please comment if you donated so i can thank you. 🥹

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1.7M followers

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18,626 likes

pattiegonia

i just found out that i made @outmagazine's out 100 list for 2020. this is the first time a queer/LGBTQIA+ publication has ever covered me or this community.

i remember when pattie was born how alone i felt. i had no queer community of my own and my job as a full time photographer was so solitary.

now, life couldn't be more different.

i've found real community for the first time in my life, i've found my own queerness in the outdoors, and i get the privilege of helping create queer community as a full time job with so many collaborators by my side.

everyone should have a community where they feel comfortable and seen. i'm lucky to have found mine here with you.

all i'm saying is this- when we get on the other side of the pandemic, we're making some real gay shit happen in the outdoors IRL.

til then, i want to say thank you. it's an honor to get to do what i do.

photos by @mcwangerson
dress by @daynaturnblom
wig by @bunnyhuggums
team that's gotten me here @jennycdugan & @katienashbeauty @daynaturnblom @lonelywhale & all of you.

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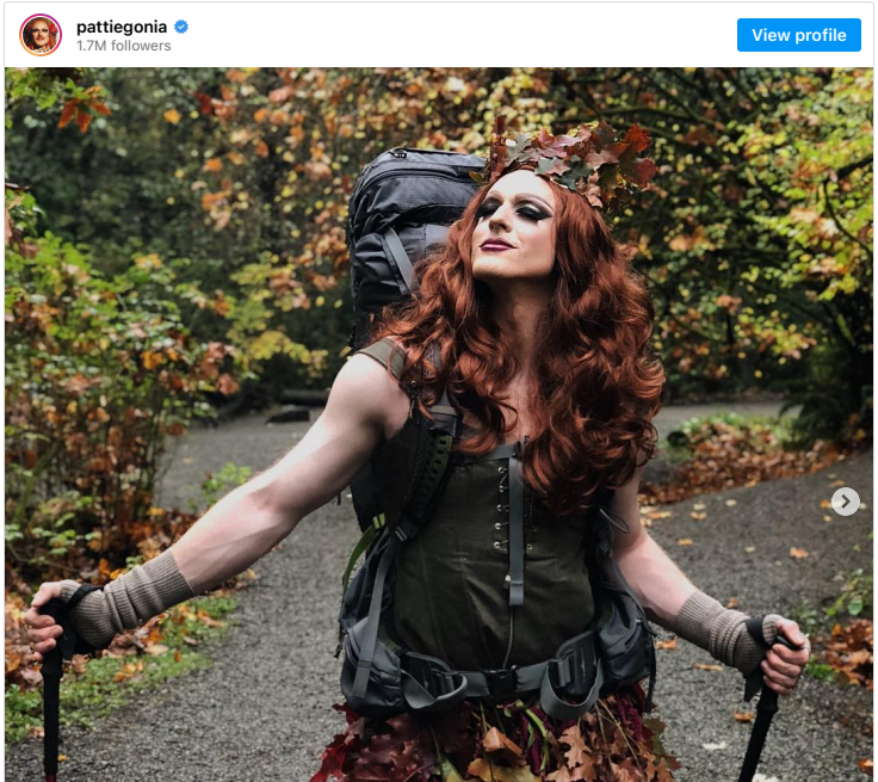

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12,000 likes
pattiegonia

pattie is your mother. your mother nature, that is. happy halloween you beautiful queens.
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Constituents showed up to testify against an anti-drag bill. Ohio Republicans mocked them

By Ken Schneck - The Buckeye Flame

Ohio constituents say they were mocked when testifying against an anti-drag bill. / Image by H.L. Comeriato

This story appeared first in The Buckeye Flame. Keep Reading →

For 26 years, an Ohio drag queen has hosted a local TV show. A proposed drag ban could end it

By Christopher Wiggins

Ms. Demeure (right) has hosted a show on Dayton public access television for going on 26 years. / Ms. Demeure/YouTube

As Ohio lawmakers advance a bill that could reshape where and whether drag can be performed, The Advocate spoke this week with a performer who has spent more than a quarter century bringing the art form into local living rooms. Keep Reading →

Republican Ohio House passes drag ban targeting transgender Ohioans

By H.L. Comeriato - The Buckeye Flame

Republicans in the Ohio House have advanced a drag ban that now moves to the state Senate. / H.L. Comeriato / The Buckeye Flame

Members of the Ohio House voted Wednesday to advance the state's ban on public drag and gender performance. Keep Reading →

Gay drag artist murdered in Virginia shooting

By Christopher Wiggins

A transgender woman was shot in a Petersburg, Virginia, neighborhood. / Gregory S. Schneider/The Washington Post via Getty Images

Editor's note: This story has been updated to reflect new information from the victim's family and Equality Virginia about how Shyyell Diamond Sanchez-McCray identified. Earlier versions of this story described Sanchez-McCray as a transgender woman based on initial reporting and community accounts. Keep Reading →

Stellan Skarsgård recalls doing drag at 15, going out, and flirty men

By Bernarda Sim

Alexander Skarsgård and Stellan Skarsgård on a red carpet. / Jon Kopaloff/ FilmMagic

"I was flabbergasted over how young men were treating me," the Sentimental Value actor, who's also Alexander Skarsgård's father, explained. Keep Reading →

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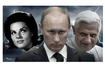

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